DYRS Community Advisory Board Meeting Minutes December 12, 2016

Attendees: Lauren Copeland (DYRS), Tim Brandau (Child Inc.), Sean Harris (DYRS), Frank Kennedy (Newark Athletic Club), Nancy Dietz (DYRS), Judy McCormick (DCGP), Matia Bryan (DCGP), Barbara Riley (DMSS), Mitchell Rock (DYRS), Amy Herb (DYRS), Kathleen Covelli (Christina School District), Carla Benson- Green (DYRS), Barbara Crowell (Family Court), Keith Zirkle (DFS), Deb Thompson (DMSS), Fay Whittle (Prison Ministries), Michelle Brogden (DYRS)

• Welcome and Introductions Kathy Covelli-Reyes, Chair

• Cabinet Secretary Carla Benson-Green

• "Risky Business" Judy McCormick,

DE Council on Gambling Problems, Inc.

SWAGG Update Ashley Biden

• Residential Cottages Youth Sean Harris

• Education Update Barbara Riley

Blueprint for Success
Nancy Dietz & Michelle Brogden

Division Update
Nancy Dietz, DYRS

- Meeting was called to order at 9:07 am and introductions were made
- Sean Harris brought a Grace and Mowlds cottage youth with him to discuss their experiences
 - Grace youth- expresses a request for more community services opportunities, would like to be able to prepare their own meals, would like more guest speakers, and a different schedule on the weekends

- Mr. Harris discussed the upcoming Christmas festivities, decorations, presents for the youth, and caroling
- Amy Herb asked what type of guest speakers the youth would like, Grace youth stated youth advocates, particularly speakers who may have been in similar situations (previous residents who have overcome similar challenges)
- Mowlds youth stated that he enjoys the school at the cottages because the teachers provide more instruction and help than he is used to receiving in public school
- Grace youth has expressed interest in cosmetology and education has set up tours for her at two different schools that she will be applying to
- Education is looking into adding a drumline to the cottages that could count for education credits and work toward helping the youth into college
- o A suggestion for a choral group was offered as well
- Fay Whittle asked if there is still a bible study, Sean Harris responded that there is a weekly non-denominational group that meets every Tuesday
- Michelle Brogden asked what type of community service options they would like to see, Grace youth stated that she participates in the SPCA, and enjoyed working at the Sunday Breakfast Mission with Vision Quest
- Cabinet Secretary Benson-Green
 - Would like to thank all members for their efforts with not only YRS but the entire Kids Department
- "Risky Business"
 - o Judy McCormick presented to get buy in on a new program
 - Topic areas:
 - Would like to get multiple stakeholders who would work together for the different topic areas
 - o Get copy of program and research electronically
 - Would like to form a committee
 - Michelle Brogden discussed the programs that do cover risk and decision making and Amy Herb spoke about the SPEP process
 - Judy McCormick will be contacted by Michelle Brogden to look into this potential new programing for DYRS
- SWAGG Update- no representative present
 - o Barbra Riley will be sitting in on the program on 12/13/16 to get a better understanding of the program more
- Education update
 - o Now offering a construction course for the next two years
 - o Culinary class has been well received by youth
 - Looking to start gardening for Ferris and the cottages, this could hopefully work towards a farm to table tie in with the culinary program
 - o Career readiness classes are being provided to residents
 - Deb Thompson spoke about the academy of business finance, this will lead to Del Tech credits
 - o Education would like to start an automotive program
 - Education is going through a small overhaul, and looking to add an education liaison to work with the courts, case workers and schools

- Nancy Dietz mentioned that this board put a major focus on education about 3 years and it continues to be a main push
- o Deb Thompson has asked for any and all suggestions in regards to education
- Blueprint for Success
 - o Decided to put this on the next agenda
 - o Distributed copies of the Blueprint and provided an overview of what will be discussed
- Fay Whittle distributed a flyer in reference of Human trafficking
 - o January will be declared Human Trafficking month in Delaware
 - o Flyer attached

Next meeting is December 12, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Multi-Purpose Facility (MPF)